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Reduced fee for ‘tower’ entry

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

The Township of Algonquin Highlands intends to open the Dorset tower property to the public this spring, although not the tower itself amid the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, and how entry fees might be revised accordingly was discussed by council during a March 4 online meeting.

The township did not open the tower property to the public at all in 2020 amid the pandemic, but plans to open the property to the public this spring, with its gift shop and the Peek-A-Boo Rock lookout available to the public beginning May 17.

Due to requirements for sanitization, social distancing, etc. that would be difficult to maintain, the tower structure itself will remain closed to visitors.

“Of course, the main attraction of the tower property is the tower itself,” said parks, rec and trails manager Chris Card. It had been the recommendation of the township’s emergency operations centre, tasked with making operational decisions amid the continuing pandemic, that admission fees be reduced by 25 per cent in light of the tower remaining see DORSET page 4



Finding lessons in Wildlands

A Fleming College Outdoor and Adventure Education Diploma student points to an area on a trekking pole after evaluating the ice depth of Little Gull Lake on March 4 in Minden. Three groups of students, numbering close to 20, each came from Lindsay for two separate days over a three-day period starting on Thursday where they met with instructors to apply class learning to the outdoors. The students learned how to plan, navigate from one place to another, as part of their education to lead outdoor adventures. See more photos on page 14. /DARREN LUM Staff

Haliburton County moves to ‘Yellow’ COVID-19 level

by MIKE BAKER
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

It is a step in the right direction for the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit [HKPRDHU] this week as the region is being moved into the Yellow-Protect level of Ontario’s COVID-19 re-

sponse framework.

Declining new coronavirus cases in recent weeks means COVID-19 restrictions were eased somewhat in Haliburton County, Northumberland County and the City of Kawartha Lakes as of Monday [March 8].

Under the Yellow-Protect level, most businesses and services can continue operating

with typical COVID-19 safety protocols in place. There are some positive changes, however, for the restaurant industry – the move lifts the 50-person capacity limit for local eateries, allows them to stay open until midnight for in-person dining, and allows up to six people [up from four] to dine at the same

see TRANSITION page 2

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Starlink brings the world to rural Highlanders

by DARREN LUM
Times Staff

High speed internet is here for rural residents through Starlink, an effort being led by the private spaceflight company owned by Elon Musk – SpaceX.

SpaceX is constructing a satellite internet constellation to provide high-speed service access via a connection with ground receivers in low to medium population density communities around the world.

The product development for Starlink started in 2015 when SpaceX launched its first 60 low-Earth orbit, or LEOs, part way through 2019. More and more satellites are being launched, as part of a plan to form a megaconstellation, comprising of thousands of mass-produced small satellites that will orbit 550 kilometres from earth.

Currently, Starlink is in its beta stage and is offering the public an opportunity to connect through invites after they have submitted an online application.

It's unknown how many beta users are in the Highlands, but for the few who are involved it has been largely positive results after spending close to \$800 for the hardware (receiver, router, cable and hardware for installation) with tax and shipping, and the \$129 monthly connection fee.

Bill Donnery, a retired resident who lives on Ritchie Falls Road with his wife, has been using Starlink for more than three weeks.

"I was just fortunate enough to get in on it so I jumped at the chance. I'm very happy with it," he said.

Donnery, who said his internet use



is mostly for entertainment – made up mostly of streaming services such as Netflix, and video chatting with loved ones, mounted his Starlink dish on his roof in place of where his satellite dish for television was. He's among the select few not just in Haliburton County, but the country selected as beta users, who will provide information for Starlink.

When he first received the dish after a four-day journey from California he put it out on his driveway to test it and had inter-

net connection within 10 minutes.

"It's pretty simple. You plug it in and it finds its own satellite itself and rotates and tilts and within five or ten minutes you're online," he said.

He adds his highest speed recorded through an app on his phone has been 175 mbps and the low has been 35 mbps, while the latency is between 20 and 40.

Donnery said he's only experienced the internet connection being down for up to three minutes in a day.

"The biggest thing is no cap. You don't have to worry about going over your limit. High speed unlimited internet," he said.

Donnery's been living in the home he built since 1984 and his internet connection started with dial-up with Bell to Xplornet satellite in the early-2000s to now using a wireless network. The speed of his connectivity has ranged from two or three mbps with satellite to 20 to 25 mbps with wireless.

"This seems too good to be true," he said, referring to seeing the 150 mbps speed.

Using cellular connection is expensive, with five gigabytes costing \$60 and could go up from there. Recently, a new rate during the pandemic was offered, which saw him pay \$120 for 50 gigabytes. However, sometimes speed with Rogers was halved during the summer when there were more users.

He appreciates the dishes' heating feature that melts the snow so he doesn't have to go up to his roof to clear it after a snow

Moore Falls
resident Richard
Bradley is
happy with
Starlink's high
speed internet
connectivity
since he
received his
hardware,
which includes
a receiver he
has temporarily
placed on his
picnic table
outside his home
Minden Hills
Township home.
Submitted by
Richard Bradley

event.

Across Haliburton County, Moore Falls resident Richard Bradley was amazed by the connection he had within a few minutes after he placed the Starlink dish, which is similar to a size of a pizza, on his picnic table.

He loves how much clearer everything is when he watches the Toronto Maple Leafs play after he received it close to a month ago now.

"To watch a Leaf game and not have to set my TV to 240p so everything looks like sort of an interesting colouration of checkboards ... Now when I put it on auto when I connect to Sportsnet or TSN or whatever, for a hockey game ... more often than not, it selects 720p high definition. Obviously it does a speed test to decide," he said.

Bradley, with two other users in the house, said there has been some down times of connection during virtual meetings that need a live feed without buffering, but he's "willing to look past" it. Part of this will be resolved with higher placement of the dish to avoid obstruction of sight to the sky by the trees in his yard, he adds. Bradley said he'll wait for the spring to install the dish higher on his house. He wishes he could have had an option for a different length cable between the dish and the router and you didn't need to dismantle the dish to remove the cable.

He said the monthly cost for Starlink is comparable to what he pays now.

"If I cancel my landline and I cancel my internet with Bell, it's almost the same price. It's within, I dunno, \$10, a month," he said. "It's an upgrade. I guess the real thing about the internet is we've already decided it's not a fad. It's not going away. So all we want is better, faster and more, right?"

Starlink uses beta users to evaluate connections.

As far as any concerns about being monitored, Bradley said he's not overly worried.

"I don't distrust them any more than I distrust Bell Canada. You know what? Whoever your service provider is ... they can monitor whatever traffic [you have]. It's all going through their system and they all have access," he said.

Recently, Musk posted to social media that speeds will double later this year to 300 mbps and said latency – the amount of delay for a internet network, defining how much time it takes a signal to travel back and forth from a destination - will drop to 20ms later in the year. He's also said Starlink will reach customers around most of

see STARLINK page 13

Transition to 'Yellow' softens restrictions on local restaurants

from page 1

table.

Prior to Monday's change, the HKPR region had been operating under the Orange-Restrict level of the province's COVID-19 response framework. While Haliburton County recorded its first direct COVID-19 death last week, there has been little other activity since Ontario's stay-at-home order was listed in mid-February.

Dr. Ian Gemmill, HKPRDHU acting medical officer of health, believes this is a positive move for the area and its residents. Still, he warned that things could change at a moment's notice.

"We've had a significant decrease in COVID-19 cases over the last two-week period, so that's great news to be rewarded with a move to 'Yellow', because things are looking better," Gemmill said. "That said, I want to urge people not to let their guard down

and continue taking COVID-19 precautions because the situation could quickly change."

According to Gemmill, 98 per cent of the population is still not protected from COVID-19, since they have neither contracted the disease, nor been immunized against it.

"We still have a lot of susceptible people out there, so it's essential to continue taking precautions so that there is not another resurgence of infection," Gemmill added. "We may be open for business, but we can't assume it's business as usual. Until more people are vaccinated and we can get COVID-19 under full control, we must continue doing all we can to stop the spread."

He advises that local residents continue to stay home as much as possible, limit social gatherings, and avoid travel to other areas/regions.

For full details about the new COVID-19 control measures under the Yellow-Protect category, visit www.hkpr.on.ca.

EORN submits proposal for Gig Project

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

The Eastern Ontario Regional Network, owned by the Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus, is submitting a proposal to the provincial and federal governments looking for a major project that would bring much faster internet to the region.

What EORN is calling its Gig Project would bring Gig internet to the area, Gig internet being that which has a gigabit of download speed of 1,000 megabits per second. This is about 100 times faster than average internet download speeds.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the crisis in rural internet access. It has im-

pacted businesses, education, healthcare and government services," reads a press release from EORN. "The EORN Gig Project offers a comprehensive, long-term solution that ensures the region recovers from the pandemic, supports economic growth and improves quality of life."

The project would be a public-private partnership involving a telecommunications partner that would be selected through a competitive bid process. It's expected the project would cost between \$1.2 billion and \$1.6 billion and EORN is seeking \$200 million from the provincial and federal governments, respectively, with the remaining funding expected to come from the Canada Infrastructure Bank and the private sector. If fully funded, EORN believes the project could be complete by 2025/26.

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Vaccines rolling out across Haliburton County

by SUE TIFFIN
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The following are brief reports from a Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit press conference with acting medical officer of health Dr. Ian Gemmill, held virtually March 3.

While Dr. Gemmill noted that "this is changing every hour," as of March 2, the public health unit had received 12,000 doses of vaccine so far to administer to residents throughout the region, which he expected to be done by this week.

All long-term care residents have received their second dose of vaccine, he said, and long-term care staff, essential caregivers and highest-risk healthcare workers were receiving their first dose last week and this week. The allocation of vaccine is set by the province, generally based on the population of area and disease incidence.

"We have a lower population, only 180,000 in this area, and we've been pretty darn good lately about keeping the incidences [of COVID-19] down, and so those two things are against us in terms of getting lots and lots of vaccine here, but as I've said before, we have been promised that situation will be changing over the next few weeks," he said. He noted that priority schedules and distribution of vaccine is being led by the province, while the health unit is responsible for distribution of vaccines once they arrive in the area, and that the health unit and partners are "working on concrete plans" about where clinics will be located but that they "haven't quite finished that yet."

"It's coming soon, just be patient," he said. "We all want to get this vaccine as quickly as possible."

Gemmill said that he recognizes parents want their children immunized to help avoid them becoming sick and to help prevent community spread but that children's vaccine trials are still taking place. He also said though he has heard "hopeful things" from col-

leagues who have seen decreased outbreaks in long-term care homes after vaccination, he wasn't yet prepared to speak to how much the public can relax gathering restrictions and mask-wearing after getting their shots until more information about how the vaccination is working is known.

"I think we just need to wait until we get guidance about how well and how protected people are," he said.

Online booking system not yet up and running

An online booking system for general population vaccine appointments created by the province has not yet been rolled out, but is expected to be available March 15.

It will be the system used in the HKPR district, and Gemmill said that alongside the online system, there will be an option to phone-in appointments as well.

He asked the public to be patient, as information about the booking system will be shared widely as soon as it becomes available. There is not currently a local waitlist.

Local cases decreasing

Gemmill said the past two weeks of epidemiological reports had shown a decrease in case counts with about 52 cases in the past two weeks rather than 114 cases when he reported this number the week prior.

"Most recently, that's what I'm most interested in, is what's happened in the last little while," he said.

While Gemmill said he would know more shortly on why numbers have decreased and if they would continue with that pattern, he said there had been a recent low streak that he was pleased about.

"Why are they getting better? I think it's anybody's guess at this point in time," he said. "It may still be some of the holdover of the [stay-at-home] restrictions that we had. It may be that we're coming to the end of the winter and the wave is naturally begin-

ning to decline ... Could it be because we've now had fewer outbreaks in long-term care homes, thank goodness, with the administration of now a second dose to many of the residents ..."

Until the vaccine can be more widely distributed, Gemmill reminded residents, as he

has done regularly, to continue to follow public health guidelines of remaining apart from others, wearing masks and staying home.

Haliburton County has seen no new cases for almost a full month. The area's first death was reported last week from a case that had been confirmed in February.

Haliburton County reports first death due to COVID-19

by SUE TIFFIN
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A resident of Haliburton County has died due to COVID-19, according to an epidemiological report update from the health unit last Thursday [March 4].

The death marks the first local recorded COVID-19 related death of the pandemic, which was declared in March 2020. Confirmed deaths are individuals who died and had a positive laboratory test for COVID-19, according to the health unit. To date, the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit has seen 67 deaths related to COVID-19 – 54 confirmed, and 13 probable.

"While the health unit cannot provide specifics about an individual case, there was unfortunately a recent death of a Haliburton County resident due to COVID-19," said Chandra Tremblay, spokesperson for the HKPRD health unit, on March 5. "The person had been hospitalized outside of the region for a non-COVID related issue and acquired COVID while in hospital."

As there have not been any local positive cases of COVID-19 confirmed by the health unit in almost a month, the report of the death was confusing for those following Haliburton County's daily case updates, and the *Times* sought further clarification from the health

unit to explain the data update.

"HKPRDHU was notified of the case earlier in February and the person was included in our case count as of Feb. 10," said Tremblay. "The person remained in hospital, but due to issues with the data system, they were not included in our hospitalization or active case counts. The error was recently discovered, but the person had already died, and the death was reported in the health unit counts yesterday."

As of March 9, in Haliburton County the health unit was reporting no current unresolved cases of COVID-19, four current high-risk contacts, and 51 confirmed cases to date. In City of Kawartha Lakes there are currently 15 unresolved cases and 82 high-risk contacts, with a total to date of 551 confirmed cases, and in Northumberland County, there are currently 17 unresolved cases and 44 current high-risk contacts for a total of 457 confirmed cases. The HKPRD health unit posts data reports daily from Monday through Saturday at <http://www.hkpr.on.ca>.

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(VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETINGS
Council and Committee of the Whole meetings are currently being conducted virtually via web conference and Closed Session meetings via teleconference, until further notice.
Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted.

The schedule of upcoming meetings are:
March 11 – Committee of the Whole Meeting
March 11 – Public Meeting Draft 2021 Budget
March 25 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link available on the township website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/ or by using the direct link provided in the notice. We encourage those wishing to view the meeting to also download the agenda, as it will not be displayed during the streaming process. Meeting agendas can be downloaded by visiting our website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/.
Please note the live-stream link provided for each meeting will only be activated while Council is in session.

LANDFILL ACCESS PASSES
Landfill Access Passes for Minden Hills residents will be distributed in the Spring Interim Tax Bill. Please ensure you open your bill and save your Landfill Access Pass. If you have already received your tax bill, please watch for a second mailing containing your access cards.

NOTICE: PUBLIC MEETING DRAFT 2021 BUDGET
TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a Public Meeting on Thursday, March 11, 2021 during its Committee of the Whole Meeting via web conference regarding the **Draft 2021 Budget**. Please visit www.mindenhills.ca for information on how to participate or access the livestream link to the Public Meeting.
Trisha McKibbin, CAO/Clerk,
705-286-1260 ext. 505, tmckibbin@mindenhills.ca

IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION
The 2021 Interim tax bills were mailed on February 26, 2021. If you have not received your bill(s) prior to the March due date, please contact our office.
The Interim tax bill will be payable in two installments; March 19th and May 21st, 2021. This bill has been calculated using the 2020 annualized assessment multiplied by 50% of the 2020 applicable tax rate(s). Payments received after February 15th may not be reflected on your tax bill. Please note that any overdue amounts do not include penalty/interest for March. Please contact our office for a current balance.
Property owners are responsible to provide to the Municipal Office written notification of any address change.
Failure to receive your tax bill does not exempt penalty charges from being applied to a tax account.

SPRING AHEAD
Daylight Saving Time begins

TIME TO CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS AND THE BATTERIES IN ALL SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS
Clocks will spring forward one hour at 2am on Sunday, March 14th and the Minden Hills Fire Department is recommending residents install new batteries in their smoke and carbon monoxide alarms when they change their clocks. Don't forget to check the date on your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms they need to be replaced every 10 years.

REQUEST FOR TENDER #ENV 21-01 Steel Landfill Cover Plates
The Township is seeking qualified bidders to manufacture and deliver steel plates to be used as an alternative to sand cover at the Scotch Line Landfill. The deadline for submissions is March 18, 2021 by 12:00 noon. Please visit our website at www.mindenhills.ca/tenders/ for more information.

WASTE REDUCTION TIP
Buy second hand at thrift shops to customize a low-cost, one-of-a-kind wardrobe and give old clothes new life! Donate old clothes to local thrift shops, or drop in the Diabetes Canada bin located at the Scotch Line landfill.

Arrangement of treasures ready to enjoy

by DARREN LUM
Times Staff

Come down Red Umbrella Road to a well-appointed and warm home where you'll find the specialty catering company, Prosciutto Brie and Charcuterie, which produces boxes of beautifully cut and arranged delectables that are a feast for the eyes as well as the discerning palate.

The new Minden business was started by Sandra Slauenwhite-Box in November and is gaining a following of fans according to the local business woman, who has decades of experience in starting and operating dental practices.

Slauenwhite-Box said she started this business because of a passion for fine food and gourmet dining, calling herself a self-proclaimed "foodie."

"I've always had a passion, a real passion for food," she said.

She adds at 57 she is not old, but it was time to try something new after a lifetime in the dental practice business.

"Still, you kind of go: Life is short. I want to spend time doing things I really, really love. And I have loved dental for a long time, but look at what I get to look at," she said, standing in her home. "I'm home in my kitchen that I love. People are excited and happy when they come to see me, and I've made somebody happy, and for me when I've made somebody happy that makes me happy," she said.

She adds the catering business is not going to replace her involvement with her dental business for now.

From the Merriam-Webster dictionary, the



Owner of Prosciutto Brie and Charcuterie, Sandra Slauenwhite-Box loves to know she's making people smile with her charcuterie boxes. / DARREN LUM Staff

literal definition of the French origin word charcuterie is cooked cold meats. However for foodies such as Slauenwhite-Box the charcuterie board is much more with its blend of colours and finely cut shapes of exotic ripe and dried fruits, fresh vegetables

with crunch, rich cheeses, savoury meats, pickles, olives, nuts, and all topped off with a drizzle of honey.

Although the charcuterie grazing boxes for one to eight people start from \$25, there is value in each box related to the quality of the food and special attention to the details, which provide customers in experiencing diverse tastes and tantalizing textures.

"The charcuterie boxes are not pricey for what they are," Slauenwhite-Box said. "What everyone says is the fun part of the box is that there are so many different things, and they can sit and grab a glass of wine."

She also adds personal touches such as home made sun-dried tomato hummus and her jellies such as peach and pepper, which goes with fine cheeses.

Slauenwhite-Box said the key to a good box is variety.

"When you have 26 or 27 [ingredients] and that's why they're called grazing boxes. They're meant to be the style of eating [where] you wouldn't have a meal that night. You literally would sit and pick. You want your meats, your cheeses, your nuts, the fruits. The dried fruits go really nice with that. All of those things when you research charcuterie these are all the things that go together," she said. "There's even a couple little squares of Lindt [chocolate] in there at the end. You want people to go, 'Oooh, what's that? I've never had that.'"

She adds some of the ingredients that she's introduced to customers has included fresh figs and pomegranate.

As far as accommodating people's allergies and intolerances, she said, it can be done, but it's worth noting her kitchen isn't nut free, and there is likely a higher cost. She encourages clients to provide at least a week for her to make these boxes.

Charcuterie boxes aren't the only thing. She can also create grazing tables for 10 or more and specialty boxes such as the Hot Chocolate Bomb box, or Stargrazer: The Ultimate Movie or Game Night Snack Box with sweet and salty treats, including popcorn and choc-

olates. The specialty catering company offers appetizing experiences through charcuterie boxes, specialty boxes and gourmet grazing tables for special occasions, as thank yous or just a night in for a movie.

After her experience during Christmas and Valentines Day when there was a lot of orders, she expects more requests for orders this coming spring and summer so she has lined up another person to help fill orders. She remembers how she fulfilled 57 orders over four days for Valentines Day, she adds.

Her business experience in owning dental practices helped with starting Prosciutto Brie and Charcuterie, but part of the inspiration is related to meeting the owner of a charcuterie catering business while out west last year. That woman, she said, was excited to share how she started.

"She really helped me figure out what I needed to organize. I love it so what do I have to lose?"

She's been surprised by who already knows about charcuterie.

"I guess I would have assumed that it would be some cottagers, some retired people. It's not. It's probably the 30 to 40 age group that are like, 'This is so cool. I'm getting this like once a month.' I have a lot of repeat customers that are in a different age bracket than I thought it would be."

She added that her adult children and niece informed her "it's the in-thing for them" to order and enjoy.

Slauenwhite-Box hopes she can help to bring people together and make them smile.

"Even if it's just with their spouse for now or within their home or whatever, it's their fun night. I wish to bring that kind of happiness to people," she said.

Pre-order what you want through her website prosciuttoandbriecharcuterie.ca or email her at prosciuttoandbrie@gmail.com or message through WhatsApp. Orders can be picked up at her 1132 Red Umbrella Road, Minden Hills location or at Abbey Gardens during their regular business hours.

Her operating hours are Wednesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Dorset Tower to remain closed

from page 1

closed.

Card noted that while this would mean a reduction in revenues, "all of our costs, all of our staffing, would remain the same."

"As we know, it's an EOC decision, this is just being brought forward as a courtesy," said Mayor Carol Moffatt. The EOC, comprised largely of senior staff members and chaired by chief administrative officer Angie Bird, remains at the helm of operational decisions in the township as it remains in a state of emergency amid the pandemic.

"Really, the tower is the greatest attraction," said Deputy Mayor Liz Danielsen, suggesting that maybe admission rates should be reduced to half.

Moffatt reiterated that, "If it's open at all, we're still bearing 100 per cent of the costs." Other councillors agreed that the tower remaining closed should mean a further reduction in admission fees, and that suggestion will be sent back to the EOC.

The tower is a popular tourist destination throughout the summer, but attendance peaks when the fall colours

do each season, attracting thousands upon thousands of visitors to the site. In recent years, the township has hired paid-duty police officers and a private security firm to help manage traffic and crowds, at a cost of approximately \$30,000. Councillor Jennifer Dailloux wondered if whether having significant signage indicating the tower itself remained closed might mean the township could forgo these expenses.

"There was still a bit of a circus at the tower last year, when it was closed," Moffatt said. The township had still paid for traffic control, and Card said some trespassing charges were laid.

"We had traffic barricades in place, we had numerous signs in place," he said, reiterating it was his recommendation to still hire police and security whether or not the tower itself was open.

"People were upset last year, completely understandably, that the tower wasn't available to them at all," said Moffatt, adding the township was trying to provide people with something to do amid the continuing restrictions of the pandemic. "... It sounds like a really simple decision, but it's not."

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100 Women Who Care Haliburton County seeking new members

by CHAD INGRAM
Editor

Charitable organization 100 Women Who Care Haliburton County is looking for more women who care.

The group, which made a \$6,200 donation to the Abbey Retreat Centre last week, is seeking new members.

Formed in 2016, the group meets three times a year. Each member brings a \$100 cheque, and during a one-hour meeting, members choose a local charity that will be the recipient of the money gathered at that meeting. Women may join individually, or form a team of two. Charities are nominated, then the names of three are drawn for each meeting. Representatives of the chosen charities give presentations, members vote, and the charity that receives the most votes, receives the funds.

A Feb. 24 meeting – held via teleconferencing app Zoom amid the continuing COVID-19 pandemic – resulted in \$6,200 being donated to the Abbey Retreat Centre, which, located at Abbey Gardens in West Guilford, provides respite for those battling cancer. The cheque was awarded to members of the retreat centre on March 3.

In pre-pandemic times, meetings were held at Minden's Dominion Hotel. The COVID-19 crisis has presented some challenges for 100 Women Who Care.

"It has been a real struggle to keep our group going through this pandemic," Sandra Slauenwhite-Box told the *Times*. "We are very passionate about making a difference in Haliburton County and we would love to try to recruit more members."

For more information on 100 Women Who Care Haliburton County, visit <https://100wwchaliburton.wixsite.com/mysite>.

For more information on the Abbey Retreat Centre, visit <https://abbeyretreatcentre.ca>.



100 Women Who Care Haliburton County donated \$6,200 to the Abbey Retreat Centre on March 3. From left are Pat Bradley, Jude Fisher and Sandra Slauenwhite-Box of 100 WWC, Barb Smith-Morrison, Jeanne Anthon and Thea Patterson of the retreat centre, and Tina Palmer of 100 WWC. /CHAD INGRAM Staff

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One year forward

WE JOKE THAT it's March again, but feels like it's still March, acting as though the point last year when much of the world acknowledged the need for an abrupt pivot in an effort for the human population to contain and counteract the spread of COVID-19, made us simply pause mid-step.

While we speak so much to what we've lost in that time, we've gained so much, too. For some it has come in increased time for simple pleasures - moments spent with family with fewer distractions, the perfection of a sourdough recipe, reacquainting with past hobbies and interests and some really good reads, a home renovation or quality time finding the perfect spot on the couch with the perfect sitcom (it's Schitt's Creek, of course).

For many, what we've gained has been through discomfort as we've learned more about fairness and equity – or lack thereof – in society; the weaknesses in how we protect and respect our vulnerable and elderly; a better understanding of systemic racism and our role in perpetuating it; how our friends and family and neighbours might be disproportionately affected by challenges due to lower income; and about ourselves and what we care about and who we are and can be when we are forced - by being unable to fill our schedule with other tasks - to reflect on ourselves.



SUE TIFFIN
Reporter

There has been challenging discourse and much hostility about, well, anything and everything when we've forgotten to listen first to each other and understand where we each as individuals are coming from, and that has been painful.

But we've also by this point learned that throughout this past year when we gave up anything, it was to help others – whether that be those with more vulnerable living conditions, those working on the frontlines as healthcare workers, teachers and retail clerks

and those who are immunocompromised and had already learned the importance of precarious health.

We worry about our children and how this time will affect them, but we can be proud of what a generation has learned from

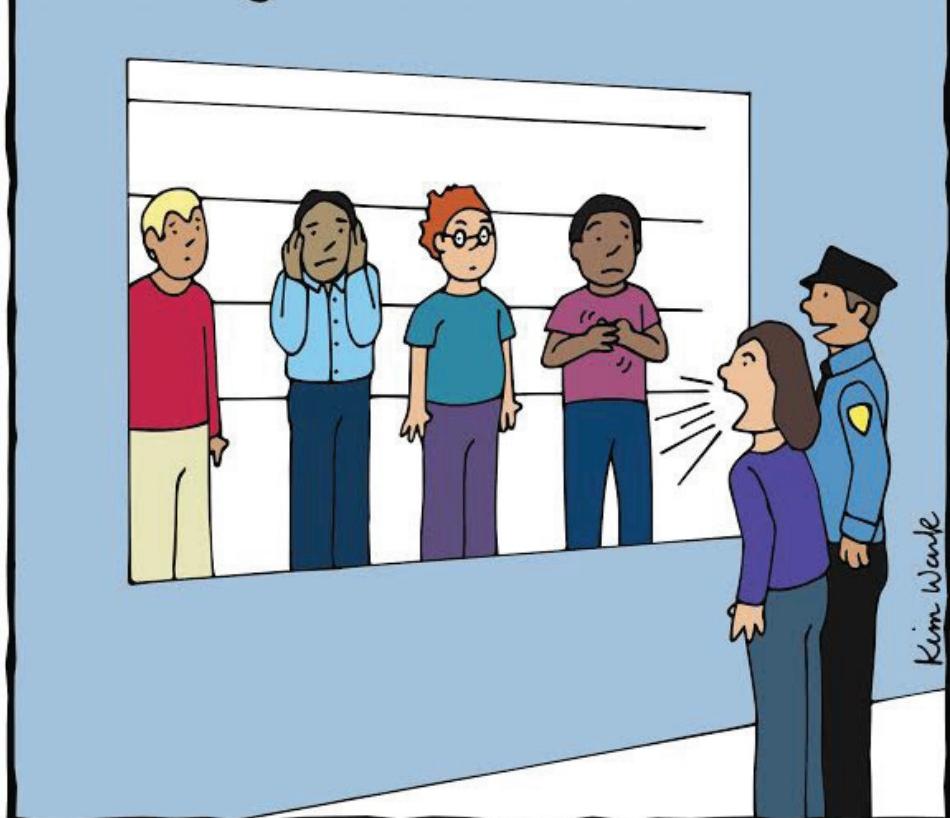
the most thoughtful actions and voices - that will see that when we paused, when we adapted our behaviour and practices, when we spoke up, when we worked to understand change, that we shared in some way in collective sacrifice to prioritize each other and the greater public good.

As we all continue to live in a time that will bring challenges that include the further effects of climate change and the need to rethink, rebuild, and respond to protect rather than neglect, we have gained better understanding that doing things differently for each other is the best way forward.

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Kwarky



"We're not reconstructing the crime, ma'am."

The world according to tarp

THERE ARE many exciting, glorious and even dramatic pieces of outdoors gear available but, let's be clear, a tarp is not one of them. In fact, only the tent peg gets less press.

Despite this, every outdoors person I know owns at least one tarp. That's because a tarp, boring as it is, has a multitude of uses in a wilderness setting.

Needless to say, when experienced outdoors enthusiasts think of tarp usage, they immediately imagine the most glaringly obvious one. I am, of course, referring to the tarp as a wind-attracting device and/or accidental wind-powered conveyance. For, as every outdoors enthusiast knows, there is simply no better way to conjure up the wind than to show the sky your tarp.

Tarps work so well in this capacity that, if I owned a windmill farm, I'd have a few of them on hand, just to remedy those windless days.

But a tarp doesn't merely summon wind.

A good tarp will also quickly let you know wind direction and velocity, which is, as you might well imagine very helpful when determining which side of the lake you are unintentionally parasailing to and how quickly you will get there.

Clearly, no one thinks of these things when they buy their first tarp. Instead, they imagine this romantic notion of hiking through the woods and then, as soon as they glimpse the first rain cloud, removing the neatly folded tarp from their day pack and setting up a cozy little shelter where they can wait out the gentle rain and enjoy the wonders of nature. This idea is usually dispelled after the first few golf ball sized hailstones touch down.



STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

Make no mistake, there are indeed times when a person will initially win the battle with the wind and be able to set up their tarp without it being blown away. In fact, there are times the wind will be surprisingly cooperative and will give you what appears to be a break. It is at times like these when you will begin to think that the horror stories you have heard whispered around an outdoors fire about the malevolent nature of tarps were probably untrue – but don't be so naive. What you are actually experiencing is the wily tarp lulling you into a false sense of security so that it can surprise you when you are smugly taking your tarp shelter down. This is a classic tarp move you should be aware of.

In fact, perhaps the most iconic outdoors scene never painted by the artists who depict them is that of a man desperately chasing his new and very expensive tarp through the open woods. And that's a shame, because it reminds us of one more unheralded use for a tarp, which is as a very effective exercise machine.

This, more than anything, is the reason most tarps eventually spend their days covering up an old wood pile, barbecue or rototiller.

Even so, before the tarp ends its days happily in such a location, it has served the outdoors enthusiast well as a sail, parasail, parachute, rain funnel, trampoline for red squirrels, hammock for raccoons, smoke collector, and wholly inadequate tent.

It's amazing, I know.

And it is also the reason why, when most people first discover the incredible versatility of tarps, they are simply blown away.

IN OTHER WORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

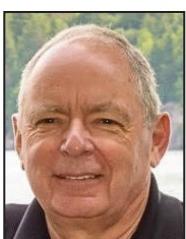
To shoot or not to shoot

THE SUN is shining. The snow is melting. Time for hungry bears to wake and go looking for breakfast.

Which has me thinking about Jordan and Athena. I wonder where they are now, and what they are doing?

Jordan and Athena are the two black bear cubs that gained international attention back in 2015.

They were out shopping for food with mom one day on Vancouver Island. The shopping trip led them into a mobile home park in Port Hardy where mom got into stuff she wasn't supposed to get into. Someone called the cops.



JIM POLING SR.

From Shaman's Rock

would learn to hunt for natural food instead of getting into people's garbage.

"My duties as a law-enforcement officer do not include the needless destruction of a baby animal that can be rehabilitated," he told his boss.

The B.C. Court of Appeal nullified Casavant's firing, but he has not been reinstated as a conservation officer. A tangled legal battle is continuing but will not settle the ethical issues of this case.

First, anyone authorized to carry a gun surely must have the right to decide when and when not to pull the trigger. He or she is on the scene, better positioned to assess the situation than a boss in a far-off place.

Also, before becoming a conservation officer, Casavant was a soldier who served in Afghanistan, which no doubt helped to develop his thinking on weapons and how and when they should be used.

Second, should we kill the babies of parents we consider our enemies?

History holds other stories of armed people having to decide whether to follow their conscience or orders from a superior. One of the most famous occurred March 16, 1968 during the Vietnam War.

American soldiers fighting the Viet Cong were sent into what was believed to be an enemy stronghold and were ordered to destroy a village named My Lai.

The soldiers, led by Lieutenant William Calley, arrived at the village and found mainly women, children and old men preparing their breakfast. Calley ordered his men to round them up and shoot them.

More than 500 villagers were killed, including 173 children, many just infants.

Some of Calley's soldiers balked at his order to shoot. Then, Warrant Officer Hugh Thompson, an American helicopter pilot landed his copter between the soldiers and fleeing villagers and threatened to open fire on his fellow Americans if they did not stop the massacre.

That pilot saved the lives of some innocent humans by telling soldiers to stop following Calley's kill order. Casavant saved the lives of two innocent baby bears by rejecting his superior's order.

Both kill orders developed from our refusal to accept that all living things have an equal right to life.

That refusal leads some to believe that: 1] Bear cubs can be killed because they might grow up to become garbage pickers. 2] Vietnamese kids can be shot because they might grow up to become fighters for what they believe could be better government.

I assume that Jordan and Athena grew to be adult bears enjoying the wilderness life they were destined for and which they deserved. I also assume any kids who survived the My Lai Massacre grew up to be productive citizens of Vietnam.

Yes, we live in a world of laws and practices that authorize killing living things. But anyone doing the killing, or ordering the killing, better be damn sure they understand that every life is sacred, and have a thorough knowledge of the moral principles governing human behaviour.

There is too much unintelligent and unnecessary killing in our societies. We need more people like Bryce Casavant and Warrant Officer Thompson to help us change that.

The pick-up

LOSING OUR balance is a scary thing. I've had experiences where I could feel that surge of adrenaline when I've narrowly escaped a serious injury. It's not a feeling I like to repeat so I work on my balance all of the time.

I read something interesting the other day that said that to keep our balance it takes a whole lot of muscles making millions of micro movements/adjustments. I find it amazing that there's all this movement going on to keep us still. That's the very reason it's important to constantly do balance training.

I'm not sure if I created this exercise or not but I have all my clients now doing what I'm calling the Pick-up. All this requires is something to pick-up. The following describes how to do the exercise:

Stand on a flat surface with a light weight (dumbbell, soup can, water bottle) lying flat on the floor in front of you close to your feet.

Raise one foot and balance on your other (figure out which is your weaker side and start on that side).

Bend, reach down and pick the weight up with one hand (doesn't matter which 'cause you'll be doing both of 'em).

Come back to the standing position (still on the same foot) with the weight held close to your body.

Keeping the weight close to your body, raise it over your head.

Reverse every part of this process to return the weight to the floor while staying



LAURIE SWEIG
Practical Fitness

balanced on the same leg.

Reach down with the other hand (you're still on the same leg) to pick up the weight, move it to the overhead position, and then back to the floor.

Do not put your foot down until the weight is back on the floor and you're back to being balanced like you were at the start of the exercise.

Repeat all of that standing on the other foot.

To make this more difficult increase the weight of the object that you've chosen or you can even try using something small and flat (like a dime). Actually, there are tons of ways to make the exercise more challenging. There are also many ways to make it easier. As an example, start with the weight on an elevated surface like a desk or chair

and work on picking and putting down the weight while standing on one foot. Build from there. Make the surface lower and lower until you get to the floor.

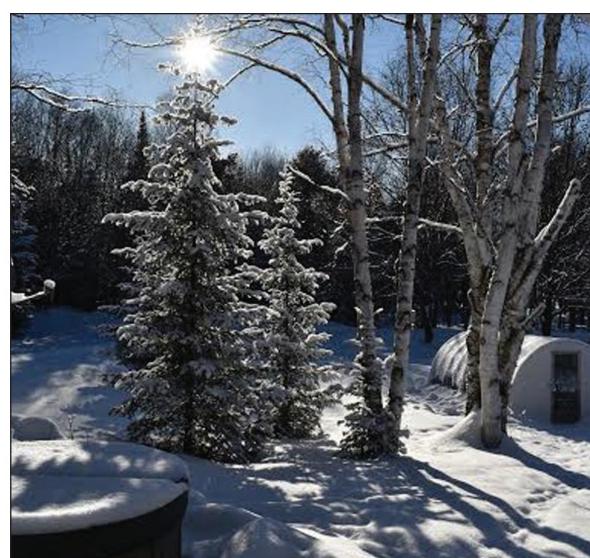
There you have it ... a convenient way to maintain or improve your balance. No fuss, no muss. Your biggest challenge will likely be remembering to do it. I'll leave that part to you.

Something to think about.

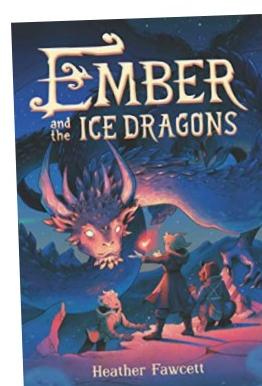
Laurie Sweig is a certified personal fitness trainer and spinning instructor. She owns and operates The Point for Fitness. She can be reached at laurie@thepointforfitness.com.

A winter wonderland

Laura Mount submitted this shot of the morning sun on freshly fallen snow.



HCPL's Jr. Book of the Month - March



Twelve-year-old Ember St. George is a dragon. At least she was, before her father turned her into a human to save her life.

Unfortunately, Ember's growing tendency to burst into flames at certain temperatures—not to mention her invisible wings—is making it dangerous to be around other humans. The solution: ship her off to her aunt's research station in frigid Antarctica!

This new land of ice storms, mischievous penguins, and twenty-four-hour nights is strange, but Ember adapts, even making friends with a girl genius called Nisha and a mysterious orphan named Moss.

When she discovers that Antarctica is home to the Winterglass Hunt, a yearly tradition in which rare ice dragons are hunted for their jeweled scales, Ember is furious. She decides to join the hunt to sabotage it from the inside. Can Ember avoid capture AND save the ice dragons? Check out the Silverbirch nominated Ember and the Ice Dragons from HCPL today and find out!

THE PAST YEAR OF A PANDEMIC

Community reflects on living life in the time of COVID-19

by SUE TIFFIN
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the novel coronavirus outbreak a global pandemic. In Haliburton County, 51 cases of COVID-19 and one death due to the virus have been confirmed by the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit since the beginning of the pandemic, in which to date, almost 117 million cases of COVID-19 and more than 2.5 million deaths have been reported globally. Here, residents of Haliburton County share their experiences after living through a year like no other.

The last pre-pandemic experience Grade 11 Haliburton Highlands Secondary School student Olivia Johnson remembers having was the last day of school before March Break, March 13, last year.

"We were all excited to have an extra week of holidays, which never ended," she said.

The subsequent cancellation of events and programs, and



Olivia Johnson has been experiencing high school during the pandemic. While spending more time with her siblings has been great, not being able to see her friends in the same way has been challenging. / Submitted

restrictions to gathering with people have kept Olivia – and the rest of her family – close to home.

"During the past year, I've spent more time with my family since we haven't been able to go anywhere," she said. "It's been nice to feel so much closer with all of my siblings."

While the past year has been life-changing for everyone, extroverts have found it especially tough to miss out on socializing in the way that they are used to doing - those who know Olivia know her smiling face and outgoing personality.

"Most challenging for me was not being able to go to school like normal and see my friends," she said. "I'm a very social person, so not being able to see my people was a very big adjustment."

That interest in seeing people extended beyond school and her social circle, and into the greater community.

"What I'll remember most is not being able to see people's faces," said Olivia. "I always loved passing by someone in a store and smiling at them to see them smile back. Now that everyone wears masks all the time, I miss seeing everyone's faces."

She's also missed the experience, so far, of being able to get her driver's licence.

"As far as my age group, 16 and in Grade 11, this year was the year that everyone gets their driver's licence and gets that extra freedom," she said. "Of course with COVID, it's been harder to actually get licences and now all of us feel like we're stuck in Grade 10."

Olivia knows that life won't always be like this – with vaccines being more widely distributed throughout the province, the end of so many restrictions for so many is potentially near.

"I just think it's important to remember that pandemics don't go on for eternity," she said. "All of the common viruses we have now were once a new one that had its own pandemic. I'm just looking forward to getting vaccinated and going on with my life."

Judy Toye arrived home from Florida last March on Saturday the 14th, when there was still talk of closing the Canada/U.S. border – it would close on March 18, 2020, to non-essential travel and continues to be closed now, until at least March 21, 2021.

"We had been watching the news while we were away and knew things were becoming serious," said Toye, who settled into her 14-day quarantine at her Minden home as the province began shutting down.

At the end of June, after a long career as a registered nurse, Toye was able to begin her planned retirement. Frontline



After retiring from HHHS after 35 years as a registered nurse in the Minden hospital's emergency department, Judy Toye found she disliked being cooped up at home and got herself outside into a new hobby: snowshoeing. /Submitted

healthcare workers have been applauded for their work during the COVID-19 health crisis and have also lived through the general population's stress as it came to terms with ever-evolving public health restrictions and guidelines.

"Life as a nurse is very challenging," said Toye. "It is frustrating when people complain about wearing a mask to go into a store yet nurses - and all others in the department, housekeepers, x-ray technicians, etc. have to wear a mask for 12-hour shifts, as well as face shields, gloves, gowns. We went in for scenarios so we would be comfortable looking after a COVID positive patient and you would have all the PPE on and you would feel like you were going to pass out from being so hot. No one understands what this is like day in and day out. It's hard to do that everyday and people think it's all made up or won't follow the guidelines."

Making the transition and beginning retirement during the pandemic had challenges of its own.

"Summer is always busy for me, I have a huge vegetable garden, many flower gardens, and a pool to enjoy," said Toye. "I make many preserves so am always busy. My plan on retirement was to make pies and sell them, as well as do knitting/crocheting orders. I was incredibly busy doing all these things. We had Thanksgiving with lots of orders and then Christmas that I had lots of orders for. A lot of time was spent sitting instead of my busy career, and as many people have found, the weight started to add on."

Toye said it was very difficult to be home all the time after being immersed in a stimulating environment, and not even be able to stop into work to visit with her work colleagues.

"I had worked with some of the doctors for 25 years and I always felt a strong relationship with them," she said. "I had enjoyed my career and was well-known in the community as I had worked at Minden hospital for 35 years. It was a huge change from working to being locked up at home. Despite being busy with all my hobbies, I missed the people."

Like others were experiencing during provincial stay-at-home orders, Toye felt she needed to make changes to cope with the pandemic restrictions – staying busy with a hobby wasn't enough, she needed to get out and get moving.

"As of the new year I decided I had to get out," she said. "I hate winter and our retirement goal of going to Florida for a month got squashed. There wasn't anything to look forward to. I began snowshoeing. Now I'm out everyday getting the fresh air and much-needed exercise. I still miss visiting people and seeing my oldest son and his family but that's the way it is for now."

Larry O'Connor was in a warmer climate – Mexico – when he said he and his wife Christina received word from the Canadian government to return home.

"Having been on a board of health for over a decade, I know that public health agencies have predicted a pandemic for years now," said the Minden Hills resident. "Well, it finally arrived."

Travelling home, he and Christina worried about driving home safely and avoiding the virus along the way, which

see page 9

Chinook 30

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THE PAST YEAR OF A PANDEMIC

from page 8

thankfully, he said, they did.

O'Connor said he recalls that his grandmother died during a tuberculosis epidemic at the Muskoka Sanitorium – later known as the Muskoka Regional Centre - in 1943. In October, O'Connor's mother died in North Bay – during the pandemic, but not of COVID-19.

"We had a very small funeral for her and still grieve," he said of his loss.

O'Connor said that the government has failed to protect vulnerable people in long-term care. He's also feeling unsafe in these times, himself.

"I miss visiting with so many family and friends, that sense of being confined to home to be safe really hit home," he said. "I have found things like grocery shopping once a month has been nerve-wracking, and I just don't feel safe."

The pandemic and resulting cancellations and restrictions have changed what O'Connor has been able to do as host of Tales from the Big Canoe, an Indigenous radio program on Canoe FM.

"Having face-to-face interviews have been nearly impossible," he said. "Almost all community events have not taken place, like powwows, where I typically chat with many of my guests."

O'Connor has, however, been able to share some of his traditional Métis experiences during two week-long virtual summer camps for Indigenous kids in the area. He's also used the time he has at home during the year to immerse himself in the Indigenous art of beading.

"I have completed many Métis regalia type



Larry O'Connor has developed a passion for the Indigenous art of beading during the pandemic. "I definitely plan to get vaccinated as soon as I can," he said. "In the meantime, I will bead and stay safe."/ Submitted

projects and have as well established a new passion," he said.

And while they might need to enjoy their time together in less warm climates at the moment, he's also been able to spend more time with his wife of 40 years.

"Like most married couples, I spent more time with my spouse than I could have imagined, and we still really like each other's company," he laughed.

Though the year hasn't allowed for all of the same opportunities as before, for

O'Connor, it's given him the chance to pursue other interests. He hopes he might be able to have more face-to-face interaction again, soon.

"As an advocate for good public health, I definitely plan to get vaccinated as soon as I can," he said. "In the meantime, I will bead and stay safe."

Jane Austin remembers the excitement of the days before March Break last year, the same way it always feels in the school with that week-long vacation approaching.

"There is an energy that ripples through the building," said Austin, the principal at Archie Stouffer Elementary School in Minden. "The holiday is approaching, the days are getting longer and people are keen for some spring weather. The moment that brought about change happened in that week as well when we heard on the news that the schools would be closed following the March Break. That was the tipping point in my consciousness with the realization that things were changing."

After March Break was extended by two weeks, and then eventually until the end of the school year, educators very quickly pivoted to take their learning online for students who could complete assignments from home on their own devices or laptops borrowed from the school. In September, brick and mortar schools opened, as did virtual learn-at-home opportunities, with some teachers and students being physically in a classroom, and some teaching and learning online from home.

"Life as an educator during the pandemic

has been challenging," said Austin. "We are given a gift each day to spend with young people and to help them to learn, be good people and to be leaders. We take our responsibilities seriously. The pandemic has created many obstacles that add an increased level of stress to educators. Expectations shift and evolve as new information and data inform politicians and health officials. However, because these amazing educators, and particularly the staff at ASES are so dedicated they continue to work hard each day, these obstacles never get in the way of our intention to make each day a good day for our students. We pledged when we returned to work that we would focus on synergy, success, well-being and wonder and that has grounded our work. We are so proud of our school and our community."

Austin said in her personal life, her family has spent more time together with "less running around and general busyness;" they've had the opportunity to be more collaborative and supportive of one another and their community throughout the pandemic; and they have taken the opportunity to connect and reconnect virtually with people they haven't connected with in years. Professionally, she said she has had the opportunity to witness the very best of people as staff works together in the school community to keep each other safe and healthy.

"I have gained a new appreciation of togetherness and connection that I refuse to take for granted when things go back to 'normal,'" she said.

As for so many others, for Austin, the year has also been filled with worry.

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THE PAST YEAR OF A PANDEMIC

from page 9

"I try to mitigate this worry by focusing on those things that I can control and can affect but the worry is always there," she said.

She worries for her family, especially those loved ones who might be high-risk, and also her school community trying to always ensure everyone has what they need to be safe and healthy.

In a report released last month by advocacy group People for Education after surveying principals at 1,173 schools across the province, 57 per cent of principals at virtual schools and 49 per cent of principals from in-person and hybrid schools said their levels of stress were not manageable.

Asked what she will most remember of this time, Austin said it's the creativity that she sees everywhere.

"People have harnessed the power of their creativity to make their lives work in the midst of this pandemic," she said. "I see it in the local business and in the arts community. I see creativity in the play that students are engaging in on the school yard. I see it in the staff members' approach to teaching the students in brick and mortar school and in virtual school; while we are open for business and when we were shut down and learning from home. I see it in our families who help support their students boomerang their belongings back and forth each day. I see it in the displays of thanks for front line workers in windows and front yards. It is energizing and amazing. I hope we continue to harness its power even after this pandemic has ended."

At Molly's Bistro Bakery, staff misses Santa popping in for a visit on the annual parade day, ice racing and the truck pull, the county fair, family and friend get-togethers, an open arena, sitting and chatting with customers in the "office," and "anything normal."

"Some of us thought it was just a bad flu that would go away like all the others and a couple of us said that they thought this was going to be bad, really bad," said comments from staff to the *Times* on their thoughts and reflections of the past year.

Last year in March, staff were largely laid off while the business remained open promoting take-out meals, frozen meals and soup during the first provincial state of emergency declared March 17, when bars and restaurants were closed to service outside of take-out food and delivery.

"Business wise we had to get a little creative," said Molly McInerney, who owns and operates the bistro with Guy Dumas. "Molly's isn't really a take-out place; more a meet up with friends place. So we expanded our frozen food offerings and added the weekly 'Date Night' experiences."

They've also promoted holiday meals "with all the fixin's" and held giveaways on their Facebook page.

And through it all, they've supported each other through challenges that have come up for each other throughout the year: interacting with people who are confused about what restrictions are currently in place, sending kids to school while feeling they don't get to



The staff at Molly's Bistro Bakery in Minden have been adapting to meet public health guidelines and offer up meals, take-out and contests that work for the community alongside the pandemic since last March. / Submitted

experience the fun that kindergarten traditionally has been, even through interesting hairstyles when hair appointments were on hold.

"Our staff has grown closer," reads one comment from staff. "We were a 'family' before but now I think we might actually be related."

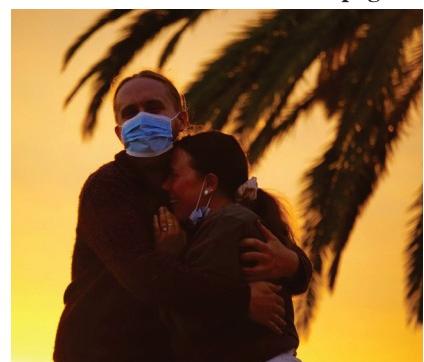
Noelle Russell was on a bus to school when an announcement on the news, which she saw through Facebook, alerted the former Gelert resident to a shutdown in her state in Western Australia.

"There was no travelling outside your region, which meant controlled interstate borders, and you needed an actual reason to leave as the roads were blocked," she said. "It was just over two months at the beginning of the pandemic when we had severe restrictions as in travel, and the whole state closing down. Our state government was so terrified to have an outbreak here, we barely had any cases – therefore, no masks, etc."

It's a different situation than the one Russell's family and friends back home in Ontario are facing, with provincial lockdowns, mandatory masks and virtual meetings and school. Russell said she'll remember "how weird the world is at the moment."

"I remember back in May when Western Australia went back to normal life as we hadn't had a single case in weeks," she said. "My friend and I

see page 11



Former Gelert resident Noelle Russell's photos of her engagement to Jamieson Gilmour include what most of us are used to seeing during the pandemic – masks. But Russell and Gilmour, in Western Australia, have only had to wear masks for a few days – during one lockdown – when the proposal also happened. / Submitted

THE PAST YEAR OF A PANDEMIC

from page 10

went out to one of the clubs in the city for ‘the countdown,’ which was a countdown until midnight – restrictions lifted – but before the midnight strike if you were caught dancing, you were kicked out. It was basically *Footloose* in real life and I don’t think I can forget that. And the weird phone calls I have to home, about myself and Jamieson [Gilmour, Russell’s partner] headed out for a weekend of fun and my poor family in lockdown. We’re literally in two different worlds.”

Russell said everything opened up back in May, but for their state border which they anticipate to ease up again soon.

“The Australian government had no travelling between states unless for good reason,” she said. “We’ve basically been landlocked here. Which baffles me that people in Ontario have been - up until recently - allowed to leave?”

Russell said she sometimes forgets the rest of the world, and occasionally the rest of Australia, “is in such distress,” as they are living COVID-free in her part of the world. In January this year, with the report of one case, the state returned to what Russell called an intense lockdown for five days, and masks for two weeks – they hadn’t worn a mask or even owned one prior to January.

“Some say it was dramatic of our government to launch us into intense house lockdown panic, but I reckon five days is merely nothing as we were able to control it and a week later, back to normal again. Really normal. I don’t even think we know what social distancing is.”

During the lockdown, the only time in this

past year in which Russell and her partner had to wear masks, Gilmour proposed.

“And honestly? I wouldn’t change a thing,” said Russell. “What a story to tell the grandkids about why we had masks on in the photo. It’s a great representation of the times we are in, even if we are less affected.”

(She said “yes”!)

Trevor Brauer, a Kinmount resident, has long been known for being an active member of the community, involved with work, volunteer positions, as an athlete, and as a regular participant in Community Living programs. Cancellations in March 2020 ended all of that, with Brauer noting his life in the community changed – first with the loss of his job at Molly’s Bistro during initial layoffs and his volunteer position at the Dysart municipal office.

“I had friends in both of these places that I miss,” he said.

Twice a week he attended Community Living programs – reading skills, exercise, cooking – but those were cancelled, too, and though some programs and activities were online, he didn’t have access to good internet service.

“I also used their WiFi,” he said. “That was cancelled.”

Special Olympics athletic programs, including Brauer’s curling and golf, were also cancelled.

“The most challenging part of COVID-19 was not seeing friends and family,” Brauer said of the past year. “Finding things to do in summer wasn’t so bad, I cut the grass for my dad and I could go swimming anytime



Without his job or volunteer work or organized sports, Trevor Brauer of Kinmount has had to fill his time in other ways, taking up lawnmowing, crafting and the joy in playing with a new kitten. /Submitted

I wanted because we live on the Irondale river.”

He also found things to do inside, finding a new hobby in painting bird houses for the garden and wooden Christmas ornaments with his mom’s folk art paints.

“My mom was home more often so we got to do some baking,” he said. “My mom thought I should learn how to iron, so I tried that, too.”

Brauer also adopted Pretty Girl, or P.G., into his life.

“We got a new kitten in July and she has kept me busy, playing and getting into mischief,” he said. “I am very happy that I live at

home with my parents and our kitten.”

Still, Brauer is very much looking forward to the day when life once again has more of the purpose that he thinks makes him most thrive, one that includes a job to go to, and group sports with his friends.

“I had a driver’s licence and nowhere to go,” he said. “I hope we will get back to life [like] before COVID-19 very soon.”

A pandemic was not going to stop the Birthday Club from showering Lois Rigney with well wishes.

“Positive things have happened during this past year as I am blessed with wonderful neighbours and friends,” said Rigney, a Canning Lake resident. “On my recent birthday, normally the gals in the Birthday Club would gather at one’s home to celebrate with a delicious dinner and cards. Two of them wearing masks arrived at my door with cards, gifts, plate of cookies and a wee one candle cake. As it was announced on Canoe FM radio the phone rang all day long with well wishers.” The moment was a bright spot for Rigney, who lives alone after the loss of her husband nine years ago, and has been dealing with isolation over the past year.

“I have learned about Zoom and YouTube as my church eventually closed, and I attend the service on YouTube and board meetings on Zoom,” she said. “I miss my Bible Study in my friends’ home but we phone each other. If I can, weather permitting, I walk the country roads from my home and sometimes meet friends and have a chat with my mask

see page 12

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THE PAST YEAR OF A PANDEMIC

from page 11

friends and have a chat with my mask on. I cope by phoning friends regularly. We call it ‘checking in with the elderly’ and it is great to talk to someone when you live alone and don’t use your voice enough.”

While she has seen her daughter and her family, who have come to help with yard work or be with her to celebrate holidays – Rigney hasn’t seen her son’s family, including two grandsons, “since all this began.”

Though they can’t meet in person, Rigney still chairs the Haliburton Highlands Stroke Support Group, trying to keep the group connected and spirits raised by sending a weekly e-mail with a funny picture, inspirational quote, health news, funny jokes, and a reminder to “reply all to keep the chat going.”

“They are a chatty group,” said Rigney. “That keeps me focused and busy.”

She said that, being a “hugger,” she longs for the day when masks can be thrown away and she can hug someone again.

“My faith keeps me going and I pray daily that this will soon end, as well as for friends I have lost through other illnesses,” she said. “We need to try to stay positive and we will get through this. Acts of kindness are everywhere. Let’s keep them going!”



I remember thinking, how are we going to celebrate Easter with our loved ones? It was such a weird, scary, different feeling of trying to help keep our loved ones safe,” said Shannon Walker, who sent this photo of her daughter, Madelyn, dropping an Easter treat and waving a hello to her Grandpa Tom in Eagle Lake. /Submitted



Jaclynne Cooney shared this photo of a memorable moment from the past year: “It reflects my children enjoying nature and not in front of a screen. Enjoying the simple things like looking for special rocks in the river, if they can see any fish swim by, and just special sibling time together.” /Submitted



“In a summer where most things were cancelled, Algonquin Highlands had a virtual kids fishing tournament,” said Robin Dillane. “Michael, along with mostly his Dad, spent seven days fishing. About mid-point in the week he came up with the goal to catch and release 100 fish that week. This is the 100th fish! I don’t think any of us will forget that accomplishment.” /Submitted



Alan Clark and Marci Mandel celebrated their 25th anniversary at Heather Lodge. “So glad we were married in August and not January,” said Mandel. /Submitted

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Starlink provides rural residents with access to quality internet

from page 2

the earth by the end of this year and have complete global coverage by next year.

Musk added "Important to note that cellular will always have the advantage in dense urban areas. Satellites are best for low to medium population density area."

Amanda Conn, executive director with the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce, acknowledges Musk can come off as boastful, but doesn't discount his abilities and track record success.

"Even when he makes these claims that sound a little like crazy and outlandish at the time, he has been able to make a lot of them come true to some extent," she said.

Conn, who lives in a wooded area west of Carnarvon, is expecting to have her hardware soon after placing an order on Feb. 23.

The issue for her isn't access so much as gaining a stable connection.

"When it comes to connectivity it's not just getting access to that connectivity, but it's also getting access to stable connectivity, which I don't know if in the beta Starlink they will have," she said.

Her challenge with her connectivity is having video conferences where she can see herself moving.

"Seeing other people isn't the ... problem, but it's more so you're always frozen," she said.

She is currently connected using satellite and LTE through her phone, as her location precludes her using Bell or North Frontenac Telephone Company [NFTC].

There's been great anticipation for Starlink.

"I've heard great things, which is why I'm so excited, but as more and more people join I think we need to see how it actually works. I'm afraid of putting all my eggs in one basket without actually seeing the evidence," she said.

The past few years, her dependency on connectivity has increased and, although it's effectiveness fluctuated, it has improved with what she currently relies on for internet.

"I've seen an increase in their service in the last couple of years so there has been increases there, but this seems to be a big jump forward. It make all those things that are really difficult right now a lot easier," she said.

She adds while video conferencing for work all day included acceptable audio, it also included frozen video images of her.

Internet access at her house of five users goes beyond work applications she said.

"It's not just for work right now. Everyone is so far away and unable to be with their family so I think that is a huge part of it too. That social connection, especially over the last year," she said.

Despite all the benefits and positive aspects that come with Starlink, there is a caveat.

"As more and more people are accessing the network and how it's scaled up to millions of users they ultimately want to have, I think that is going to be important to keep an eye on," she said.

She adds at some point there will be a limit to how many satellites will be allowed to meet the demands.

There's an obvious high cost for this service that not everyone in the county can afford, she adds. It would be ideal if a solution that was accessible to everyone was available.

Also, Conn wishes there could be a local option.

"While we would love it to be a Canadian company that is offering that technology, you know, anything that we can do to help connect more people up here the better," she said. "That's going to help the businesses."

She hopes her experience will not just benefit her, but will provide a perspective she could share with chamber members.

"If I have a great experience, probably, other businesses are asking for suggestions and solutions I would be more than happy to share that information with them and share my own personal experience. I don't think it's something the chamber needs right now because we are located downtown Haliburton so we do have access to infrastructure," she said.

She believes this connectivity isn't just good for businesses when it can enable more opportunities to new and more business, but also benefit their employees.

"If we have a period of time where people need to work from home or want to work from home and have better connectivity to do so I think that helps a business as a whole be more productive," she said.

“

While we would love it to be a Canadian company that is offering that technology, you know, anything that we can do to help connect more people up here the better.

— AMANDA CONN

”

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Fleming College's Outdoor and Adventure Education Diploma students try on snowshoes before packing their equipment to travel.



Taking educational steps

Fleming College's Outdoor and Adventure Education Diploma students with facilitator Jarod Chinnick walk across Little Gull Lake on March 4 in Minden. Three groups of students, numbering close to 20, each came from Lindsay for two separate days over a three-day period starting on Thursday where they met with facilitators to apply class learning to the outdoors where they learned about equipment and how to plan, navigate from one place to another, as part of their education to lead outdoor adventures. It was the first time Fleming students from this program have conducted these lessons in the Minden portion of the Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park. In other years students would have winter camped overnight./DARREN LUM Staff

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			7	9			2	
		1			5			
3	9		8	6				
4					5			
5		3				6		
8	7		1					
		8	7	1				
	2							
6		4	5	3				

Level: Advanced

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!



Fleming College's Outdoor and Adventure Education Diploma students with facilitator Joleen Thomas of Carnarvon, far left, study maps to plot a course to a destination at the Little Gull Lake boat launch.



Fleming College's Outdoor and Adventure Education Diploma facilitator Jessica McEachern walks across Little Gull Lake.

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 14

Operatic artists form Racial Equity Advisory Council

by SUE TIFFIN

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

As the pandemic progressed, so too did more public discussion of systemic racism alongside a rise in xenophobia, in which Asian people faced verbal and physical attacks and discrimination involving blame for the pandemic; the Black Lives Matter movement globally responding to the murder of George Floyd by police and the ongoing brutal treatment of Black people, and the continual injustices faced by Indigenous people, from unresolved cases of murdered and missing women to drinking water advisories.

Last summer, the Highlands Opera Studio responded to these challenges by looking within and having conversations to begin confronting the issue of systemic racism within the opera business.

"The subject of systemic racism is not a new one," said Valerie Kuinka, general and co-artistic director of HOS. "It is something that has gone on, it has been the dark underbelly of society for many years. I think we are all well-aware of that. The environment of 2020, in all of its difficulty and all of its challenges, also brought to light, through some of the atrocities that we're all aware of, problems that have been existing in society for years and years and years. Through these atrocities, things have been brought to a head. We have all had a chance to, perhaps, through the lockdown period, a chance to reflect more deeply on how we can make the world a better place."

In July, the Highlands Opera Racial Equity Advisory Council was formed, with the idea of promoting the work of the Indigenous, Black and People of Colour [IBPoC] community of HOS through social media channels, and conducting 'In Conversation' sessions through Zoom, which Kuinka said on the HOS website would "open a dialogue, provide education, share stories and increase awareness and positive action." HOREAC members are Suzanne Taffot, Andrew Balfour, Samuel Chan, Matthew Gamble and Chantale Nurse, who have all worked with the company during summer professional training programs.

"The roots of this musical genre are Eurocentric, and many of our current performance and business practices are steeped in outdated traditions," said Chan on behalf of the council on the HOS website. "Up to now, many of us on this council along with our fellow IBPoC artists who wanted to pursue a professional career had no choice but to fit into white-centric molds, which included being racially cast in the same outdated productions and roles throughout their careers, as well as being overlooked during casting due to their physical appearance."

The first conversation in the initiative, focusing on the importance and role of equity and diversity in opera, took place via Zoom on the afternoon of Feb. 28, with Chan moderating a meet and greet between the equity council and the HOS board and some community members.

Each council member spent a few moments sharing the subjects, interests and topics they wanted to put forth for exploration.

Taffot said a parallel could be drawn between action on the environmental crisis situation and the issue of systemic racism. First, she said, it should be acknowledged that it exists, and second, we should look at how we can, as individuals, work to overturn it by not denying it, or causing fear of victimization for people who share their experiences.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

5	1	6	3	7	9	4	2	8
7	2	8	1	6	4	5	9	3
3	4	9	5	2	8	6	1	7
4	7	1	8	9	6	2	3	5
9	5	2	4	3	1	8	7	6
6	8	3	7	5	2	1	4	9
2	9	4	6	8	3	7	5	1
8	3	5	2	1	7	9	6	4
1	6	7	9	4	5	3	8	2



Andrew Balfour, composer (Mishaabooz's Realm, HOS commission, 2017) /Photo from <http://cameratanova.com/16/about-us/artistic-director/>



Samuel Chan, baritone (HOS '16, '17) /Photo from <https://www.deanartists.com/samuel-chan>



Suzanne Taffot, LLB, soprano (HOS '17, '18) /Photo from <https://en.lmopera.com/suzanne-taffot-media>



Matthew Gamble, baritone (HOS '14, '17) / Photo from <http://www.matthewgamblebaritone.com/>



Chantale Nurse, soprano, (HOS '14, '15) /Photo from <http://www.chantalenurse.com/>

Equity, she said, must be considered. When she auditioned for HOS, she was older than typical singers.

"I remember when I was checking other programs, I couldn't audition because already my age was a barrier," she said. One factor within systemic racism, she said is access to education. She was not aware of opera, she said, until she moved from Cameroon to France when she was 23, pursuing it later than many artists.

"Taking into consideration equity in a situation like this does not mean that we are giving a privilege to the person," she said. "It only means that we are trying to repair something in the injustice. We are trying to repair something that was created before, we are trying to repair in order for everyone to be equal. Because being equal doesn't mean that we should take away the question of equity. Equity doesn't mean equality. It's not giving a privilege. It's trying to repair an injustice that was created."

Andrew Balfour, composer of Mishaabooz's Realm, which HOS commissioned in 2017, said his perspective is unique as a "Sixties Scooper" of Cree descent who was removed from his home at the age of six months and grew up with a white family.

"I was lucky because I was brought up with music and loving and supportive parents, but I didn't know anything else about my culture or heritage," he said. "The act of taking children away from their blood and raising them in non-Indigenous families is an act of extreme, extreme systemic racism, apart from residential schools, no clean water in Indigenous communities up north, you name it. Indigenous people have a long, long history of facing systemic racism since the settlers first got here."

Balfour said that as a composer, he tries to deal with the issues Indigenous people have faced in the past decade or so, but said he feels society lacks the compassion and understanding to address the issues.

"The only way we can really get out of these issues that are so ingrained in our society is through the arts," he said. "But to do that we need to heal the arts community."

Instead of the word 'decolonization,' Balfour prefers the word 'transformation.'

He spoke to the hierarchy that is daunting in larger performing arts companies, the lack of opportunity Indigenous people

have in experiencing the opera while facing other challenges, the need for education and greater awareness of issues that face IBPoC communities, and that there are not easy answers.

"There's no easy answers, there's no possible way, even in Zoom, in the next year or two that we're going to solve all of these issues, but the discussion is happening and I applaud HOS and Valerie and Richard [Margison, artistic director], Samuel and everyone here - to give us time and voice and respect," he said. "That makes me feel a little bit better at the end of the day. We're not going to solve everything but we're able to listen, and I think that's the important thing right now."

Nurse said she hadn't necessarily thought of systemic racism in opera in the past, but said having the conversation was both instructional and helpful.

"It's so ingrained, these conscious biases, unconscious biases, people thinking you look a certain way, you have to sound a certain way, and I only cast you for these things because of the way that you look," she said. "How do you change people's minds, like that? What can we say - what can I say to somebody, to say, can you think outside of the box? Is that possible? How do we get to the root of that problem?"

Like Balfour, she said she didn't expect to see a simple solution to systemic racism in opera, or society in general.

"But I think the conversation is important, and I think that people are willing to have the conversation is important," she said. "It's not a question of us being victimized and talking about all of the horrible things, or whatever - situations that have occurred that have made us feel aside or less than, different, the other. Those situations, they've informed who we are as people, but that's not what I think we want to focus

see 'THE page 16



Notice
Fees and Charges

NOTE: As a result of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak, as well as the requirements for social distancing, Council Meetings will be conducted electronically via web conference until further notice.

NOTICE is hereby provided that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands intends to consider amending its Comprehensive Fees and Charges By-Law 2020-104 at its regular meeting to be held on Thursday, March 18, 2021.

The proposed amendment will include refund provisions for the Haliburton Highlands Water Trail bookings related to COVID-19 provincial lockdowns.

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by joining a live-stream link. The live-stream link can be found in the Regular Meeting Notice posted on the Township's website under the News and Notices at www.algonquinhighlands.ca

Dated: March 10th, 2021

Dawn Newhook
Municipal Clerk
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'The work has to be done so we can all move forward'

from page 15

on."

Instead, she said the focus should be on "the next step."

"Acknowledging that these things happen," she said. "What is the next step? How do we get to a place where we have equity, diversity, inclusion at all levels - not just the artists on the stage, not just the composers, but also the musicians, also the tech people, the backstage people, the directors, the people at the top. Are they having these conversations? Are they aware, or is it just like, OK, we're going to do one night where we highlight Black composers and that's it, we've done our job."

She applauded HOS for bringing the ideas to the forefront.

"They're not easy ideas to talk about," she said. "It's not easy for me to talk to you guys about systemic racism, it makes me feel un-

comfortable, but the work has to be done so we can all move forward."

Chan spoke to the topics of education, opera and race, asking how the three topics are intertwined and how they matter.

"When all of the racial awareness started happening within opera in the summer, a lot of the news I was hearing in the community came from the educational level, and the lack of opportunity that specifically performers of colour have into entering the very basic educational system that creates the opera singer, which is the university and conservatory level," he said. "When it comes to racial representation in these institutions, yes, within classical music there's quite a diverse representation in instrumental music as of now, and of course I am speaking rather bluntly, not in detail of this, but in opera, specifically in the training of opera, it is still an extremely - I hate to say this - racially biased art form. That is not entirely the educational system's

fault, often it has to do with the access that young people have to getting to hear what opera is, and to get into the interest of what it is."

He noted the Eurocentric roots of the art form, and said that the history of how race was handled within opera performance as a whole does not offer much to be proud of.

"A lot of it is quite dark and quite hidden and is now being brought to light in a more honest manner," he said. "Let me put it this way, it is quite, we've often forgotten as a community how radical it was for somebody like Leontyne Price, a Black American soprano, to be on the main stages at her time, at a time when Black-Americans in the States were having such a difficult time, even being recognized by their own government as equal citizens with everyone else."

He noted that Gamble, who was not able to attend Sunday's discussion, spoke often of how grateful he was that at HOS, the ap-

proach focused on vocal excellence, regardless of race.

"And for Matthew, specifically, he was so inspired by his time at HOS in the summer because it was his first experience within a summer institution where his skin colour never affected how he was spoken to and how he was talked to, and he really wanted to make sure everyone knew that, because it is important, that HOS, of course, keeps that mandate of voice first, as the importance behind its existence," said Chan. "The importance of the education being that of, that you can gain access to wanting to say what you need to say through your voice, through an institution."

Chan said he was very much looking forward to seeing how having an equity council helped with the educational components of HOS.

Besides the series of online 'In Conversation' sessions hosted by Highlands Opera Studio, the company is also working on establishing a mentorship program in which the HOREAC, general and co-artistic directors and professional consultants would "guide, teach and advise" up to five aspiring opera professionals from the IBPoC community. In the meeting, Kuinka said HOS has always been merit-based, and would choose a select number of people based on the best voices heard, not depleting the value of the accomplishment of getting into the program by "changing our mandate to be checking boxes of tokenism."

Kuinka hopes that, through the program, a stipend might be available to help with educational and or living expenses.

"There would not be an age limit, because we understand often life and practical needs - having a family, working in another field to pay expenses, etc. - can interrupt studies and set back a promising career, but the general goal will be to help those who have already shown exceptional talent and commitment, but their circumstances are holding them back," said Kuinka.

The program would run for one year for each participant, with re-application for extended support a possibility.

"It's very clear that the IBPoC community is underrepresented in the opera industry, and it's also clear that this situation is not because of lack of interest," wrote Kuinka to the Echo after the meeting. "On the contrary, members of the IBPoC community who aspire to a professional career in the opera industry both at home in Canada and abroad often do not have the opportunity to develop their talent and interest because they do not have access to adequate resources, either educational or financial, to encourage their interest, guide their education, and develop their talent to the point where they can compete."

The members of the HOREAC were thanked for their time and energy in sharing and leading the conversation. "We want to continue these conversations, those paths to healing - as Andrew so eloquently put - to transform our society through art in small steps," said Kuinka. "This is one small step today."

To learn more about the HOS or future events, visit <http://www.highlandsoperastudio.com>.

INSPECTION

Inspection of the 2021 Annual Work Schedule for Bancroft-Minden Forest

The April 1, 2021 - June 30, 2021 Annual Work Schedule (AWS) for the **Bancroft-Minden Forest** is available electronically for public viewing by contacting the **Bancroft-Minden Forest Company (BMFC)** office, during normal business hours. It is also available on the Natural Resources Information Portal <https://nrip.mnr.gov.on.ca/s/fmp-online> beginning **March 15, 2021** and for the duration of the AWS. This AWS coincides with the Short-Term Plan Extension of the 2011-2021 Forest Management Plan (FMP).

Scheduled Forest Management Operations

The AWS describes forest operations such as road construction, maintenance and decommissioning, forestry aggregate pits, harvest, site preparation, tree planting and tending that are scheduled to occur during the year.

Fuelwood

For information on the locations and license requirements for obtaining fuelwood for personal use, please contact Glenn McLean, Forestry Technical Specialist, MNRF, at 613-202-1721. For commercial fuelwood opportunities, please contact the forest company contact listed below.

More Information

For more information on the AWS or to arrange a remote meeting with MNRF staff to discuss the AWS or to request AWS summary information, please contact the MNRF contact below:

Ernie Demuth, R.P.F.
Management Forester
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
tel: 613-202-2208
e-mail: ernie.demuth@ontario.ca

Svetlana Zeran, R.P.F.
Plan Author
BMFC
tel: 613-332-6890
e-mail: svetlana@bmfc.ca

Jane Dumas
Bancroft-Minden Local Citizens' Committee (LCC)
e-mail: mayor@southalgonquin.ca

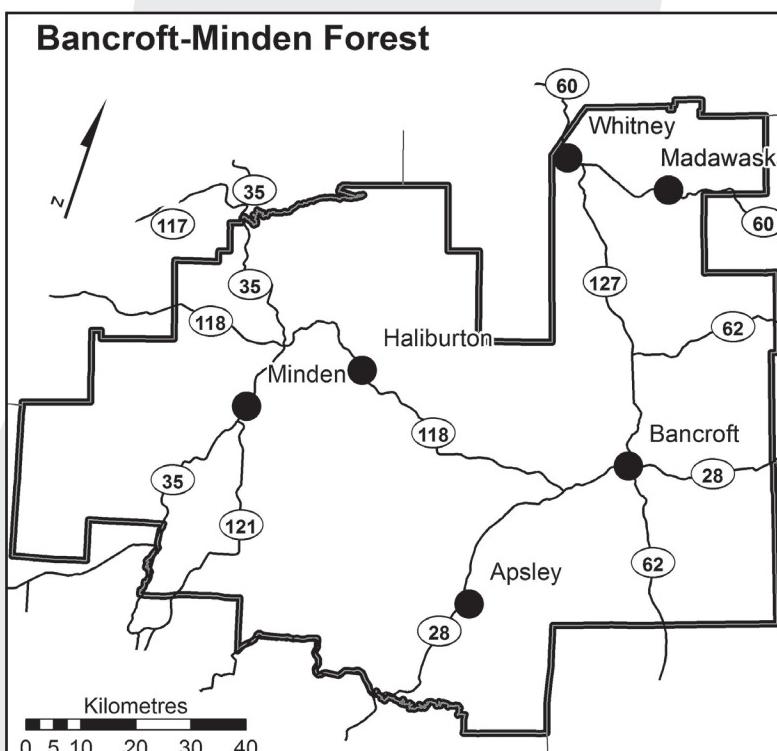
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The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) is collecting your personal information and comments under the authority provided by the Forest Management Planning Manual, 2020 approved by regulation under Section 68 of the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994*. Any personal information you provide (home and/or e-mail address, name, telephone number, etc.) may be used and shared between MNRF and/or the sustainable forest licensee to contact you regarding comments submitted. Your comments will become part of the public consultation process and may be shared with the general public. Your personal information may also be used by the MNRF to send you further information related to this forest management planning exercise. If you have questions about the use of your personal information, please contact Shari MacDonald, MNRF, Regional Information Management Specialist, MNRF, by e-mail: shari.macdonald@ontario.ca.

Renseignements en français : Elizabeth Holmes au tél. : 613-302-3768 ou courriel : elizabeth.holmes@ontario.ca.



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Are you a student looking for a great summer job? The Township of Minden Hills is currently accepting resumes for Summer Students for our **Community Services Department in Parks** and at our **Minden Hills Cultural Centre as Heritage Interpreters**. Both positions are for a 16 week period from May to August with the rate of pay being \$14.25/hour, pending 2021 budget and grant funding approval.

Please visit our website at www.mindenhills.ca for posting details, job requirements and submission instructions, or email sprentice@mindenhills.ca



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Are you a chef or baker who's looking for an exciting change? Do you care deeply about food, nutrition and food security? Do people compliment you on your food and flavours? Do you have great ideas about how to expand product lines, innovate, and reach new audiences?

SIRCH Community Services is a high impact charity in Haliburton County known for innovation. SIRCH has several social enterprises that help sustain our food security and training programs. We are looking for a **chef, and a baker**, to join our SIRCH Bistro and Marketplace. You will help expand our programs, training, Bistro offerings, and bakery. We are looking for someone who pays attention to detail but can also see the big picture. Someone who is comfortable teaching a class, partnering with a local business, able to create a food "experience." Someone with exemplary safety and hygiene skills. Able to deal with transition/change with a smile. Able to take direction, as well as work as part of a team.

If this is you, send a cover letter and your resume to Gena Robertson, Executive Director, SIRCH Community Services info@sirch.on.ca.

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650 OBITUARIES



REGINALD ERIC HOLLOWAY C.M.G.

Sadly, our family have to announce the death, in Niagara Falls, on March 2nd, 2021, of Reg Holloway, C.M.G., former British Consul General in Ontario, husband of Anna for 62 years, loving father of Belinda (Peter), grandfather of Leigh (David), Caitlin (Richard), and Alex (Riley), great grandfather to Charlotte, Christopher, and Thomas, and brother of Arthur (Vicky) in England. He was 88 years old.

Reg left school at fourteen in Brighton, England, for a six year apprenticeship in journalism, with a break of two years in the Royal Air Force. He returned to journalism in the UK, and then travelled to Nairobi, East Africa, to work on the East African Standard. It was while there that he and his wife were married. Later he transferred to Dar es Salaam where he worked for the Tanganyika government training local information officers. In 1962 Reg changed careers and joined the British Foreign Service. Over the next thirty years he served in many parts of the world. First to Guyana, then Malta, and then as Charge d'Affaires to the kingdom of Nepal. From a posting back in London, Reg spent two years as a Diplomatic Service Inspector, traveling and assessing the efficiency of British embassies throughout the world. He came to Toronto in the early 80s as Consul General to this Province, and it was whilst serving in Toronto that he was honored by the Queen as Companion of the Order of St. Micheal and St. George. His following posting was as Senior British Trade Commissioner to the then colony of Hong Kong, and also as Consul General to the then Portuguese territory of Macau. From there, his final posting was to become British Consul General in Southern California. Centered in Los Angeles, he also looked after British interests in Arizona, Utah, and Nevada, as well as the American Pacific islands, including Hawaii and Guam.

Upon retirement in 1992, Reg and Anna came back to Ontario and they became Canadians. During the five years they lived in Toronto, Reg was chairman of the Canadian Urban Institute. Reg and Anna then bought Harmony Farm in Burnt River, and planted two thousand trees. Twelve years later they moved to Mountain Lake, and it was there that Reg wrote his book "The Evolution and Demise of the Large Format Press Camera". Old cameras had long been an interest of his and Reg had put together an historical collection of old press cameras. He was also a long time member of the Photographic Historical Society of Canada. Over the years Reg learned to garden and, together with Anna, the two created gardens wherever they were.

He will be greatly missed.

650 OBITUARIES



In Loving Memory of William "Bill" B. Prentice

Born on February 9th, 1929 – Died March 6th, 2021 at the Hyland Crest Senior Citizens Home, Minden surrounded by his loving family and the caring, compassionate staff at Hyland Crest.

Cherished husband of the late Lenore Wilda Prentice (nee Trumbull) for 69 years. Dear father (and father-in-law) of Bonnie-Lee Berry (Stephen), Paul Prentice (Patti), Bev Kinsman (Rick), and Tammy McKelvey (Shayne). Loving grandpa to nine precious grandchildren: Cameron Berry (Joanne), Tanya Boisvert (Mike), Jessica Higgins (Joshua), Simon Milestone (Kim), Brittany Miethner (Erik), Rich Kinsman (Kim), Andy Kinsman (Tiffany), Chelsea Cosh (Dylan), Justin McKelvey (Brooke), great grandpa to 19 cherished great grandchildren. Predeceased by his parents Morgan and Lola Prentice and by his brother John Lee "Jack" Prentice. Bill was a deeply loved husband, father, grandpa, great grandpa, special uncle and dear friend to so many people in his community. Family and friends were his life's work.

A Private Family Visitation and Funeral Service to celebrate Bill's Life will be held at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, K0M 2K0 on Wednesday, March 10, 2021.

Spring Interment at the Minden Cemetery.

Donations in Bill's memory to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF - Hyland Crest Residents Council) or to the Charity of your choice would be appreciated by the family.



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Monday, March 16, 1998

Good news in health report

There was good news for health care services in the Highlands and surrounding area on Thursday. The much anticipated Health Services Restructuring Commission's (HSRC) report on the Haliburton, Kawartha and Pine Ridge District has all but endorsed the years of planning which have taken place and the current course of the Haliburton Highlands Health Services board.

The HSRC report has affirmed:

- that both the Minden and Haliburton sites operated by HHSS should be retained
- that the Haliburton site will continue to operate the ten acute care beds
- that both sites will continue to provide 24 hour emergency care services
- that both sites are needed to provide health care for Haliburton County residents
- that the planning for the HHSS capital projects can proceed
- that the HHSS governance structure will remain unchanged

(See page 2 for an excerpt from the commission's report regarding the Highlands health services.)

The news was greeted with relief and elation by those involved in the delivery of health services in the Highlands. Chair of the HHSS, Hugh Nichol, described it as a "pretty happy day" for health care in our area.

Speaking at a special meeting of the HHSS board on Friday, he said, "They have endorsed what we have been trying to dothey (the commission members) said they were happy with our projects, happy with our acute care services, happy with our ambulatory and long term care facil-

ties." He told the meeting that in conversations with the HSRC staff on Thursday it was indicated that they had recognized the need to expedite the capital works projects and as far as he was concerned it was the green light that was needed to move the process into high gear.

He said that as a result of the commission's report he expects tenders to be issued in April and construction on the capital projects in Minden and Haliburton to begin in July.

"I think we can celebrate
(more on page 3)



A combination of low flow and extremely cold nights this past week resulted in the rarely seen phenomenon of the Gull River in Minden capped with ice. The icy crust was seen mainly by early risers as it was quickly broken and pushed downstream when normal flow levels were resumed.

Trillium Lakelands favoured by board committee

The name game is over for the time being as the School Board District #15 has made a decision. At a committee meeting in Bracebridge on March 10, the trustees gave their tentative approval to the name "Trillium Lakelands District School Board".

"We really are pleased with it," said School Board Chair and Haliburton County representative Cheryl Murdoch. "The idea went back to the community at large and there seemed to be a majority of responses for Trillium Lakelands."

The new name must get the official stamp of approval at the school board's next meeting on March 24 in Bracebridge. Once it has been ratified,

it will be sent to the Education Improvement Commission (EIC) for final confirmation.

At its last round of meetings, the board had selected the name 'Central Ontario District School Board'. However, many people suggested this name was unacceptable. In Muskoka District, there was a citizens' committee, dubbed the, "Anything but Central Ontario District School Board Committee", was created to persuade the board to find another name.

Murdoch expressed the hope the new name will be acceptable to the majority. "Hopefully it will serve as a name that everyone will like. It will be with us for a long time." The search for

a new name had to move quickly as the EIC imposed a deadline of March 31 for name changes for the new school board. If the board does not select a name by then it will remain as District School Board #15.

Now that the name is a little closer to becoming official, a contest has begun, in the hope that students in Haliburton, Victoria and Muskoka can create an appropriate logo to complement the name.

The board plans to approve a logo at its meeting on April 28. The board will then contract the services of a consulting firm to finalize the logo and title, for proper colour selection and letter-head application.

Reader poll begs to differ

The Times reader poll results are in on the school board name selection and there is a difference of opinion between what the school board committee has recommended and the public's choice. See page seven for what our readers had to say.

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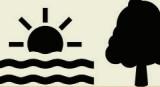
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 SOLD Family Home in Gooderham \$259,900 • Appx. 77 Ft Frtg, .27 Acr • 1102 sq ft, 3 Bdm, 4 pc & 2 pc bath • Detached Garage • Walk to River/Park, Close to Lake	 Mark Denny* 457-0473	 SOLD Rockcliffe Tavern • Sold but not forgotten • The rebirth is in the works • Stay tuned.	 Tom Ecclestone* 286-2138 x 226		 Lindsay Elder 457-5878	 NEW LISTING Haliburton Home \$399,000 • Updated home in the heart of Haliburton • Ideal for a family or retirement • Open concept, 4 Bedroom, 2 Bath • Walk to all of Haliburton's amenities	 Andrew Hodgson** 286-2138 x 229
 NEW LISTING	 Susanne James* & Andy Mosher** 457-2128 x 133		 David Lee* 286-2138 x 227	 HOW MUCH IS YOUR PROPERTY WORTH Are you selling? • Please give me a call. I would be glad to help. • 35 years experience selling in Haliburton County	 Donna McCallum* 455-2054	 NEW LISTING	 Brandon Nimigon*** 457-2128 x 127
Mink Rd. \$109,900 • Approx 1 acre, nicely forested, good privacy • Close to public access to Long/Miskwabi Lake • Year-round Municipal Road access • Minutes to Haliburton Village	 Karen Nimigon** 457-6505	Thinking of Selling your Property? • Please give me a call. I would be glad to help. • 35 years experience selling in Haliburton County	 Industrial Park Rd \$1,200,000 • 10,000 sq ft of mixed use industrial and commercial space • Private 6.75 acre lot in Haliburton, unlimited possibilities with this fantastic building!	 SOLD Irondale River \$179,000 • Listed & Sold in 2 days. • 17 acres with almost 500' of frontage on the river	 Darlene Reil* 447-2055	Drag River \$74,900 • 1.05 acre building lot • Private, yr round road • Hydro at lot line	 •WANTED• YOUR LISTING   
 County Road 21 \$750,000 • Commercial property in Haliburton • Prime corner location, 1.5 acres • Rental house as an added feature • Sale includes land, & building	 Greg Stamp* 457-2128 x 128	 NEW LISTING Kennisis River \$449,000 • 2 Bedroom/1 bath cottage • Western Exposure, 178' Frontage • Kayak/Canoe into Hall's Lake	 Kelly Kay* 705-457-6841 Kirsten Rae* 286-2138 x 230	 SOLD Hunter Creek Estates \$189,900 • Cute, clean double wide mobile home • Large, eat-in kitchen, private lot • Close to town	 Lindsay Wilkinson* 286-2138 x 223	 Haliburton Multi-Rental \$395,000 • 2x2 bedrooms, 1x1 bedroom • Hydro metered separately, parking • Coin laundry, drilled well, muni sewer	 Andrea Wilson** 705-457-6694

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